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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,859	09/18/2003	Robert T. Melville	212/518	5764

23371 7590 11/08/2004

CROCKETT & CROCKETT  
24012 CALLE DE LA PLATA  
SUITE 400  
LAGUNA HILLS, CA 92653

EXAMINER

PARSLEY, DAVID J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3643

DATE MAILED: 11/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/666,859

Applicant(s)

MELVILLE, ROBERT T.

Examiner

David J Parsley

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **Detailed Action**

### ***Amendment***

1. This office action is in response to applicant's amendment dated 8-23-04 and this action is final.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,802,112 to Banner. Banner discloses a dual fishing rod holder comprising, a mounting post – at 1-2, or 17 or 21, adapted for insertion into a receiver installed on a boat – proximate 2 or – at 1, a first fishing rod holder – at 6-9, having a proximal end and a distal end, the first fishing rod holder being secured at its proximal end to the mounting post and extending rearwardly from the mounting post – via items 17 and 21, and at least one fastener – at 23, at the distal end of the rod holder, wherein the fastener is adapted to secure a first fishing rod – at 19, and a second fishing rod holder – at 6-9 – see figure 9, disposed at an angle relative to the first fishing rod holder, the second fishing rod holder adapted to securely receive the handle of a second fishing rod – at 19,

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and hold the second fishing rod at a substantial angle relative to the first fishing rod, wherein the second fishing rod holder is secured at a distance from the top of the proximal end of the first fishing rod holder – see for example figures 1-9.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,388,774 to Thoemke. Thoemke discloses a method of securing at least two fishing poles to a single support structure, the method comprising the steps of securing a first fishing pole – at 14, comprising a rod, reel and line to a first substantially aft pointing rod holder – at 32-36, and releasably securing a second fishing pole – at 10, comprising a rod, reel and a second line to a second substantially upwardly pointing rod holder – at 86, setting the first line from the first fishing pole at a first distance from the support structure and setting a second line from the second pole line a second distance greater than the first distance from the support structure – see for example figure 1.

### *Response to Arguments*

3. Regarding claim 1, the Banner reference US 3802112 does disclose that both fishing rod holders – at 6-9 as seen in figure 9, are disposed at a substantive angle with respect to each other as seen in figures 8-9 and in column 2 lines 37-59 and column 3 lines 24-34, which shows that the rod holders – at 6-9, are adjustable to differing angles along slot – 3 located in mount – 1 via adjustment knob – 16-18. Figure 9 of Banner only discloses one possible orientation of the rod holders – 6-9, and the rod holders can be angled as seen in figure 8 to be in differing angled orientations with respect to each other.

Regarding claim 2, the Thoemke reference US 4388774 does disclose securing both the first and second fishing rod holders – at 32-36 and 86, to the same support structure as seen in figure 1 where the support structure can be the boat B. Applicant does not further define the support structure in the claim language and therefore the boat – B can be construed as the claimed support structure.

### *Conclusion*

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J Parsley whose telephone number is (703) 306-0552. The examiner can normally be reached on 9hr compressed.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Poon can be reached on (703) 308-2574. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David Parsley  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3643



PETER M. POON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

11/3/07